At the ECIF Show (Olympia, London) Mitsubishi Electric UK Ltd., Semiconductors Division, announced the launch of the FG-602S-TO1 Er-doped fibre amplifier for single mode direct amplification for 1550 nm fibre optic signals. It will amplify all channels operating in the window (1535 - 1565 nm) and is designed to accommodate simultaneously a high number of channels with high data rates – it can amplify 60 Gbit/s in a single pass. It comprises an Er-doped fibre optic coil to provide the gain with the optical signals travelling through the fibre, bi-directionally pumped by 1480 nm isolated laser diodes. As shown it is supplied in a compact, static safe, casing measuring 152x122x25 mm, with heatsink mounting facilities and interface and monitor connector sockets.

■ *Contact: Christine Warren, tel/fax: [44] (0)1707 276100 / 278692.*

Hughes satellite success

Hughes Space and Communications International Inc. has received its sixth order from SES (Societe Europeene des Satellites) for an Astra 1H satellite for launch in 1988.

Based on the successful HS601 body-stabilised bus, the new satellite will use GaAs solar panels to generate 8 kW of power allowing the SES to extend the Astra system's TV and radio coverage to more of Europe.

In addition, this subsidiary of Hughes Electronics Corp. will provide 12 satellites for the Inmarsat-P global mobile telephone system, in a more than $1.3bn agreement.

For launch in 1988 it is the largest satellite in Hughes' history and marks the company's strategic partnership with Inmarsat.

It too will employ GaAs solar cells to provide some 6.3 kW of power (standard HS 601 models use silicon cells).

AIXTRON MOCVD in China & Korea

The latest sale of an AIX200 series reactor goes to Nedi in Nanjing for III-V devices.

This sale brings to four the number of recent orders from China won by AIXTRON, with three previous orders coming from Wuhan Telecommunication Devices Co and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

To support its expansion in China, AIXTRON recently opened the new "Service Center China" at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Run by Chinese experts in MOCVD, Service Centre China offers present and future AIXTRON customers support in any maintenance aspect as well as the provision of spare parts, technical upgrades and further process technology.

The Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), one of the most famous universities in Korea and particularly well known for its MOCVD activities, has purchased an AIX 200 system using it to develop AlGaAs/GaAs VCSEL structures. AIXTRON and KAIST have also signed a cooperation agreement enabling the company to use the laboratory facilities for demonstration purposes.

This is the third order AIXTRON has won in Korea since March of this year. Two previous orders went to ETRI (Electronics and Telecommunication Research Institute) the famous governmental research Institute in Korea and SAIT (Samsung Advanced Institute of Technology), the research group behind the multinational giant, Samsung.

■ *Contact: AIXTRON GmbH, Ms Sarah O'Connell, Marketing Manager, Kackerstr. 15-17, D-5 2072 Aachen, Germany. Tel/fax: [49] 241 8909-0/8909-40.*

Cray CC to M/A-Com

As we reported in issue 3, Cray Computer Corp. had filed for Chapter 11 and was to sell off its fab. The latest news is that M/A-Com has bought the complete facility in Colorado and intends to re-open it. Initially, M/A-Com expects to be setting up the line for the production of its line of wireless ICs.

Whilst it came as no surprise to hear that Cray Computer was to cease operations, the future of the fab and its workers was of some concern. Some had already left the company but many were no doubt hoping that just such a rescue would arrive.

The acquisition is the first demonstration of the renewed commitment M/A-Com has been having to the GaAs business and is thanks to the backing of its new owner, AMP Inc., the connector company.

Despite cynical predictions that the facility would face dissolution at some auction, it would seem that the prevailing shortage of fab capacity and specialty knowledge has saved the operation.

Nevertheless, it doesn't change the fact that Colorado will not be making the Cray line of GaAs-based supercomputers. As to whether it will be resurrected elsewhere only time will tell. Certainly, with this news it was obvious that the saga is not yet over.